

THE LIBRA FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION

We believe that all people are born with equal and inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms and have a right to live in a healthy environment and in peaceful, just and equitable societies. Promoting these human rights is the highest purpose we can envision for the grantmaking of The Libra Foundation.

Recognizing the power of human rights to express our values and transform societies, The Foundation joins with other foundations that are working to secure human rights for all people and to develop its application here in the United States. We are committed to enhancing the human rights movement and broadening it to include U.S. social justice work in the areas of peace and justice, environmental sustainability and women's rights. We are interested in supporting innovative and effective work that emphasizes strategies that incorporate the interconnections between issues and lead to real social change.

AREAS OF INTEREST

The Foundation has a particular interest in concentrating its grantmaking in California and Illinois, although organizations working nationally may apply as well. Recognizing the value of learning from our global partners and participating in the international community, we fund U.S. based organizations and public foundations, collaborative funds and intermediaries working internationally. The Libra Foundation funds social and economic justice organizations that integrate human rights into their work in and across the following priority areas:

- Women's Rights, with an emphasis on reproductive rights and the elevation of women's rights as human rights
- Environmental Sustainability, with an emphasis on promoting social justice within climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Peace and Justice, with an emphasis on fair application of the law, government accountability and human rights field-building

STRATEGIES AND ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

The Foundation seeks to support organizations and programs that incorporate (or seek to incorporate) human rights into their work and organizations that are providing training, research and technical assistance to support organizations in utilizing human rights in their activism.

We are interested in supporting organizations that are engaged in systems change incorporating one or more of the following strategies:

- Advocacy
- Public policy reform
- Coalition-building
- Impact litigation and related legal strategies
- Organizing
- Re-granting
- Utilizing new media and communications strategies for social change

The Foundation seeks to support organizations that are engaged in strategic analysis and action. We support organizations that are committed to the following:

- Accountability
 - Democratic conditions and practices
 - Evaluation
 - Global partnerships
 - Strategic planning
 - Understanding power relationships
 - Using a gender lens
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TYPES OF GRANTS AND AWARD AMOUNTS

The Foundation awards grants ranging from \$15,000 - \$75,000, with organizations new to our docket falling in the lower range. While The Foundation views its grantees as long-term partners, multi-year funding will be decided on a case-by-case basis as part of the proposal review process.

The Libra Foundation provides the following types of grants:

- General Operating
- Project or Program
- Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

The Libra Foundation **does not** fund:

- Fundraising events (including tickets to events)
- Campaigns to elect candidates for political office
- Grants to individuals and/or private foundations
- Organizations that are heavily supported by the government (except for specific advocacy or public policy projects of interest)
- Capital fund drives or campaigns
- Debt reduction
- International organizations not registered in the U.S.
- International work that focuses on a single country or small set of countries
- Programs to promote religious activities
- Government agencies
- University/college programs which must contribute a pre-determined percentage of each grant to institutional overhead

DISCRETIONARY FUND AND BOARD DIRECTED GRANTS

On a rolling and limited basis each year, The Libra Foundation will make smaller discretionary grants (<\$5,000) for time sensitive requests from existing grantees.

Each year Libra Board Members may elect to initiate a finite set of Board Directed grants. These grants are made at the discretion of the Board and should not be seen as an indicator of activities or funding amounts that will be considered under the General Grants portfolio. Applications for General Grants must be aligned with Libra's mission, strategies and priorities as outlined above.

SPONSORSHIP GRANTS

On a limited basis, The Foundation will sponsor events or conferences (excluding fundraising events) hosted by grantee partners or associations of which The Foundation is a member. The Foundation will not directly engage in outreach or mailings on behalf of its grantee partners or other associations. Sponsorship grants generally fall in the range of \$500 - \$2,500.

The Libra Foundation must receive the following information in writing at least one month prior to the proposed event:

- Written proposal describing the event and its goals
 - Detailed budget
 - List of the members of the organizing committee for the event and their contact information
 - Information on how The Libra Foundation will be represented at the event. The Foundation must review and approve in advance all uses of its name, logo, and description in any and all promotional materials.
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GRANT CYCLES

The Foundation has two grant cycles per year and only accepts invited proposals received by the date indicated in the Request for Proposal. Late and incomplete proposals will not be accepted.

GRANT REVIEW AND REPORTING PROCESS

The Libra Foundation grant review process is as follows: during our Spring and Fall grant cycles proposals will be reviewed in March/April and in September/October, phone interviews and site visits will be conducted with a smaller group of organizations in April and November and the Board will make final grant determinations in June and again in December, after which organizations will be notified about the status of their proposal. Submission of a completed Grant Report will be required of each grantee at the end of the grant term.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please note that The Foundation only accepts invited proposals. However, if your organization, project or program is aligned with our guidelines, we will accept brief letters of inquiry (LOIs) on a rolling basis. LOIs must be submitted using the on-line application system on The Foundation's website and include a brief request narrative describing the purpose of the grant and alignment with The Foundation's mission, priorities and human rights focus. A current organizational budget and a project/program/capacity building budget (if appropriate) must be submitted as attachments. LOIs are regularly reviewed to determine whether a full proposal will be requested.

Once a proposal has been requested, selected organizations will be required to submit their proposals using our on-line system. The on-line system is designed to limit characters within text boxes, so The Foundation suggests that all submitted information be as concise as possible.

Proposal information collected on-line will consist of:

A. Organizational Background

- Describe the history and major accomplishments of the organization and how it defines its work
- Describe and define your organization's theory of social change: What changes are you working towards and why? What are the necessary ingredients for this change to occur? What are your organizational values?
- Describe how your organization works, including the responsibilities of board, staff and volunteers
- Describe your organization's current programs and activities, as well as geographic area served
- Describe your organization's constituency and/or the populations your organization works with (indicate demographics such as race, class, gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, disabilities, etc.)
- Indicate how your organization approaches collaborative work, especially with other Libra grantees
- If you are working internationally, please describe your work with local groups and if you partner with other international organizations

B. Application of the Human Rights Framework

- Does your organization routinely use human rights language, tools or mechanisms in its work? If yes, please describe
 - If not, please explain challenges or structural limitations to the use of a human rights framework to advance your organization's goals
 - Does your organization consider itself a human rights organization?
 - To what extent are human rights a part of the mission and values of the organization? (1=not at all 2=somewhat 3=fully)
 - To what extent are human rights a part of the goals and objectives of the work that would be supported through this grant? (1=not at all 2=somewhat 3=fully)
 - In what ways is your organization interested in learning more about or integrating human rights into its work?
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C. Request

- Describe purpose and expected impact of the request, including goals, objectives, target audience, activities and staffing (if applicable). How does this request fit within The Foundation's Areas of Interest?
- Describe measurable outcomes to be achieved and evaluation plans and methodology, including time frames for achieving outcomes (if available, include findings of previously conducted external evaluations)
- Describe fundraising plans for current and future support of the organization and the project/program (if applicable)
- If this request is for a specific project or program explain how it will be supported after the termination of the grant
- Provide information regarding the qualifications of the personnel/consultants responsible for organizational or programmatic leadership

D. Required Attachments

- Full organization budget for previous (budget to actuals), current and next fiscal year
- Project budget for previous (budget to actuals), current and next fiscal year (if applicable)
- Current audited financial statement OR most recent Form 990
- List of funders, including amounts received for most recently completed and current fiscal years
- List of other funding sources for this request, including amounts received, pending, committed, or to be approached
- List of Board of Directors with their affiliations and demographic information
- If you are a current Libra grantee please attach a brief summary of your accomplishments to date noting any updates and challenges you have faced in the active grant year. If you are requesting support for the same project and there have been any substantive changes, please address them in your proposal.

ATTACHMENTS

If you do not have an electronic copy of a requested attachment, the on-line application system will allow you to attach a paper copy using a Fax-to-File tool. You can also use this option if your attachment exceeds the maximum size limit. Electronic documents can be uploaded in their original file format (e.g. .doc, .xls, .pdf, .jpg, .csv, etc.).

For all attachments, please ensure that they are NOT password protected and that they can be printed out on standard 8½ x 11-size paper in the format in which the information should be read. Attachments which require additional formatting in order to be read will be RETURNED AS PART OF AN INCOMPLETE PROPOSAL.

**ALL PROPOSALS ARE DUE ON THE DATE INDICATED
IN THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL.
Incomplete and late proposals will not be accepted.**

THE LIBRA FOUNDATION

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